

127th ASB Refuelers Keep Division Moving

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Tony Sailer, 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD – Whether by air or by land, 1st Armored Division vehicles and aircraft won't go anywhere without JP8 fuel and help from trained military refuelers.

Since the mission extension in mid-April, the refueling Soldiers of 127th Area Support Battalion, Division Supply Command, Task Force 1st Armored Division have been busy running the Forward Arming and Re-fueling Point, a bulk fuel storage and retail fuel distribution point on the flight line of Baghdad's airport.

"I am most proud of my soldiers for how they handled being stopped," Master Sgt. Robert Elders, a platoon sergeant with 127th ASB said.

He also said that when the they were told they were not going home in April, his unit had to return to Baghdad and resume the refueling mission, pumping more than 50,000 gallons in the first five days.

"We immediately started looking for the equipment we needed to set up the fuel points," Elders said. "We had to borrow filters. The 1st Cavalry (Division), those guys were great. They hooked us up with anything we needed -- filters or whatever."

Soon the Soldiers had their vehicles back on the flight line and began pumping fuel into aircraft within 24 hours of receiving the mission. This was accomplished despite having recently cleaned their fuel tanks for the trip home.

"We had purged our tanks prior to leaving in early April to clean the fumes and vapors out of the tank for the trip home,"



Pvt. Anitra Kernes, a fuel specialist with 3-5 platoon, 127th Area Support Battalion, Division Supply Command, 1st Armored Division, takes a fuel sample for testing at Baghdad International Airport recently.

Elders said. "It takes a while to get the cleaning solvents out of the tank so they don't contaminate the gas. Once you put purging fluid in the tanks it is hard to get a good quality fuel out of them."

Another challenge the group faced was the quality of the local fuel. During the process of transferring fuel from civilian contract fuel tankers over to the bulk facility, contaminants were getting into the fuel.

"It is hard to look and see if you gave bad fuel. You can look at the color and say well that looks good, but you have to test it to be sure," Elders said.

"Before I can put our fuel into anything flying, I have to send a sample to the lab. The Air Force has a very good lab here. They let us send our fuel over to be tested and they gave us the results," he continued.

The results were disappointing. The tests confirmed that the first

batch of fuel was no good. It had to be removed, he said.

"We spent hours and hours and hours re-circulating the fuel, cleaning the fuel."

Now, armed with a portable, state-of-the-art piece of equipment called a water detector test kit, the refueling team can test the fuel on the spot.

"The test kit tells us if the fuel is on grade or off grade," Elders said.

Elders will not accept any reading of more than 5 parts water per million, though the Army standard is 10 parts water per million.

The Soldiers test every tanker at every refueling to ensure a quality product.

To date, Elders and his platoon have provided over 4.5 million gallons of fuel to aircraft, track and wheel and continue to keep Task Force 1st Armored Division moving.

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Quote of the Day...

"I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestioned ability of a man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor."

-- Henry David Thoreau (1817-62), American writer, author, naturalist



Spc. Luis Aguilar signals the pump truck operator to stop the flow while Sgt. Justin Apiog prepares to unhitch the fuel line from a Blackhawk helicopter at Baghdad International Airport recently. Both Soldiers are fuel specialists with 3-5 platoon, 127th Area Support Battalion, Division Supply Command, 1st Armored Division.

Oddly Enough...

Marshmallow Bust Haunts Woman on Cruise

MIAMI - A teacher's aide who forgot to put away her marshmallows and hot chocolate at Yellowstone National Park last year was taken from her cruise ship cabin in handcuffs and hauled before a judge Friday, accused of failing to pay the year-old fine. Hope Clarke, 32, crying and in leg shackles, told the judge she was roused at 6:30 a.m. by federal agents after the ship returned to Miami from Mexico. She insisted that she had been required to pay the \$50 fine before she could leave Yellowstone, which has strict rules about food storage to prevent wildlife from eating human food. U.S. Magistrate Judge John O'Sullivan, who had a copy of a citation indicating the fine had been paid, apologized to Clarke, who spent nearly nine hours in detention, and demanded that the U.S. attorney's office determine what went wrong.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

Failure can lead to Success

Theodore Roosevelt said, "The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything." Edison spent more than \$100,000 to obtain 6000 different fiber specimens, and only three of them proved satisfactory. Each failure brought him that much closer to the solution to his problem. His friend Henry Ford was right when he said that failure was the "opportunity to begin again, more intelligently."

Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

1314 The Scots, under Robert the Bruce, defeat Edward II's army at Bannockburn.

1377 Richard II, who is still a child, succeeds his grandfather, Edward III.

1667 The Peace of Breda ends the Second Anglo-Dutch War as the Dutch cede New Amsterdam to the English.

1862 Union and Confederate forces skirmish at the Chickahominy Creek.

1863 In the second day of fighting, Confederate troops fails to dislodge a Union force at the Battle of LaFourche Crossing.

1900 General Arthur MacArthur offers amnesty to Filipinos rebelling against American rule.

1915 Germany uses poison gas for the first time in warfare in the Argonne Forest.

1919 Germans scuttle their own fleet at Scapa Flow, Scotland.

1939 Baseball legend Lou Gehrig is forced to quit baseball because of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis--a disease which wastes muscles.

1942 German General Erwin Rommel captures the port city of Tobruk in North Africa.

1945 Japanese forces on Okinawa surrender to American troops.

1948 Dr. Peter Goldmark demonstrates his "long-playing" record.

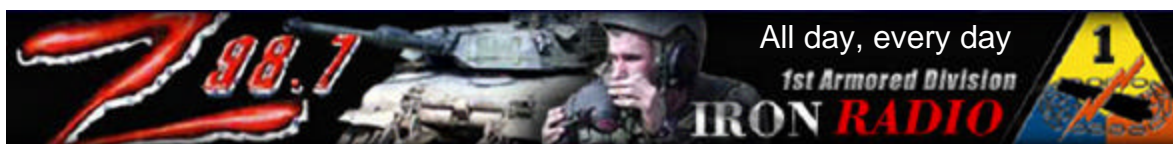
1958 A federal judge allows Little Rock, Arkansas to delay school integration.

1963 France announces it will withdraw from the NATO fleet in the North Atlantic.

1964 Three civil rights workers disappear in Meridian, Mississippi.

1982 John Hinkley Jr. is found not guilty by reason of insanity for attempting to assassinate President Ronald Reagan.

1995 The U.S. Senate votes against the nomination of Dr. Henry W. Foster for Surgeon General.



For your Information...

8TH FINANCE KEY DATES AND ACTIONS

16 JUN to 10 JUL:

BIAP Check Cashing & Casual Pay

M-W-F 0900-1700 hrs

**IRON
FINANCE!**

17 JUN:

All Paying Agents must Clear
8th Finance Bn

POC- CPT Miller @ 551-9308

*Early Clearance is Highly Encouraged

26 JUN:

Last Day for Turn-In of 365 BOG Paperwork

Include Soldiers Eligible through 30 Jun



Reenlistment Bonus Incentives continue.

The Army continues to pay soldiers for remaining part of the team. Recently, some bonuses have been retroactive as far back as March 18, 2003.

If a Soldier reenlisted between March 18 and Sept. 18, 2003 for either option E1 (Regular Army) or E2 (Current station stabilization) and did not receive a bonus, he or she should contact their Career Counselor and see if they qualify for the bonus.

The most current update to the Selective Reenlistment Bonus program is MILPER Message 04-163 dated 05/14/2004.

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2004				As of: Sunday, June 20, 2004 10:14:24 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00			TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL (TVPG): - SONG FOR MY FATHER	ESPNEWS	TIM RUSSERT	00:00
00:30				ESPNEWS		00:30
01:00	BASEBALL TONIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - PACK OF THORNBERRYS	SESAME STREET	FOX REPORT	01:00
01:30		SEINFELD (TV14): - THE DINNINER PARTY	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - WELCOME TO THE CHUM BUCKET / FRANKENDOODLE			01:30
02:00	MLB - NY YANKEES @ LOS ANGELES DODGERS	THAT 70'S SHOW (TVPG): - FORGOTTEN SON	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SECRETS OF A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE	DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - BABY DINO	THIS WEEK	02:00
02:30		ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT (TVPG):	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - WHO'S SORRY NOW?	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		02:30
03:00			AVERAGE JOE: HAWAII (TV14): - HUNK-O-RAMA	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	DATELINE INTERNATIONAL	03:00
03:30		WWE SMACKDOWN! (TV14):				03:30
04:00			LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - RIDICULE	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	60 MINUTES	04:00
04:30		AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM				04:30
05:00	SPORTSCENTER	MEET THE PRESS	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - LOW BULL-RIDER	HEADLINE NEWS	CNN PRESENTS	05:00
05:30				JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		05:30
06:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - TRIAL BY FIRE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	06:00
06:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		06:25
06:30	SPORTSCENTER	ESPNEWS				06:30
07:00		SESAME STREET	SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE		CNN SUNDAY NIGHT	07:00
07:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		07:13
07:30	SPORTSCENTER					07:30
08:00		DORA THE EXPLORER (TVY): - BABY DINO		LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - THE ASTEROID	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	08:00
08:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - SORA'S CREST OF LOVE		08:30
09:00	AMA MOTOCROSS - SOUTHWICK, MA	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - PACK OF THORNBERRYS	I SPY (TVY): - A MUMBLE MONSTER MID-DAY SNACKA POLKA-DOT PRINCESS!	BELTWAY BOYS	09:00
09:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - WELCOME TO THE CHUM BUCKET / FRANKENDOODLE	EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - A VERY SCARY STORY	FOX NEWS WATCH	09:30
09:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				09:46
10:00	AMA MOTOCROSS - SOUTHWICK, MA		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SECRETS OF A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	BULLS & BEARS	10:00
10:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - WHO'S SORRY NOW?	HEADLINE NEWS	CAVUTO ON BUSINESS	10:30
10:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				10:35
11:00	NBA FINALS LATE NIGHT		AVERAGE JOE: HAWAII (TV14): - HUNK-O-RAMA	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK	11:00
11:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				11:17
11:30	SPORTSCENTER			PACIFIC REPORT		11:30
12:00		HEADLINE NEWS	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - RIDICULE	60 MINUTES	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	12:00
12:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				12:30
13:00	MLB - INTERLEAGUE: NY YANKEES @ LOS ANGELES DODGERS	TODAY	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - LOW BULL-RIDER	COLD CASE (TV14): - A TIME TO HATE	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	13:00
14:00			THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - TRIAL BY FIRE	WITHOUT A TRACE (TVPG): - NO MAS		14:00
15:00	HBO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING - MIDDLEWEIGHTS: JERMAINE TAYLOR VS RAUL MARQUEZ	LILO & STITCH: THE ANIMATED SERIES (TVG): - THE ASTEROID	SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE	PACIFIC REPORT	HEADLINE NEWS	15:00
15:30		DIGIMON: DIGITAL MONSTERS (TVY7): - SORA'S CREST OF LOVE		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	15:30
16:00		I SPY (TVY): - A MUMBLE MONSTER MID-DAY SNACKA POLKA-DOT PRINCESS!			THE EARLY SHOW	16:00
16:30		EVEN STEVENS (TVG): - A VERY SCARY STORY		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - PACK OF THORNBERRYS			17:00
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - WELCOME TO THE CHUM BUCKET / FRANKENDOODLE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		17:30
18:00	WIMBLEDON TENNIS TOURNAMENT - EARLY ROUND COVERAGE DAY 1	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SECRETS OF A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE	TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD	FOX NEWS LIVE	18:00
18:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - WHO'S SORRY NOW?			18:30
19:00		60 MINUTES	AVERAGE JOE: HAWAII (TV14): - HUNK-O-RAMA		FOX NEWS LIVE	19:00
20:00		COLD CASE (TV14): - A TIME TO HATE	LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT (TV14): - RIDICULE		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30				BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER		20:30
21:00		WITHOUT A TRACE (TVPG): - NO MAS	MONSTER GARAGE (TVPG): - LOW BULL-RIDER		HEADLINE NEWS	21:00
21:30					INSIDE POLITICS	21:30
22:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE NEW DETECTIVES (TV14): - TRIAL BY FIRE	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		22:00
22:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	22:30
23:00	AROUND THE HORN		SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	23:00
23:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				23:30